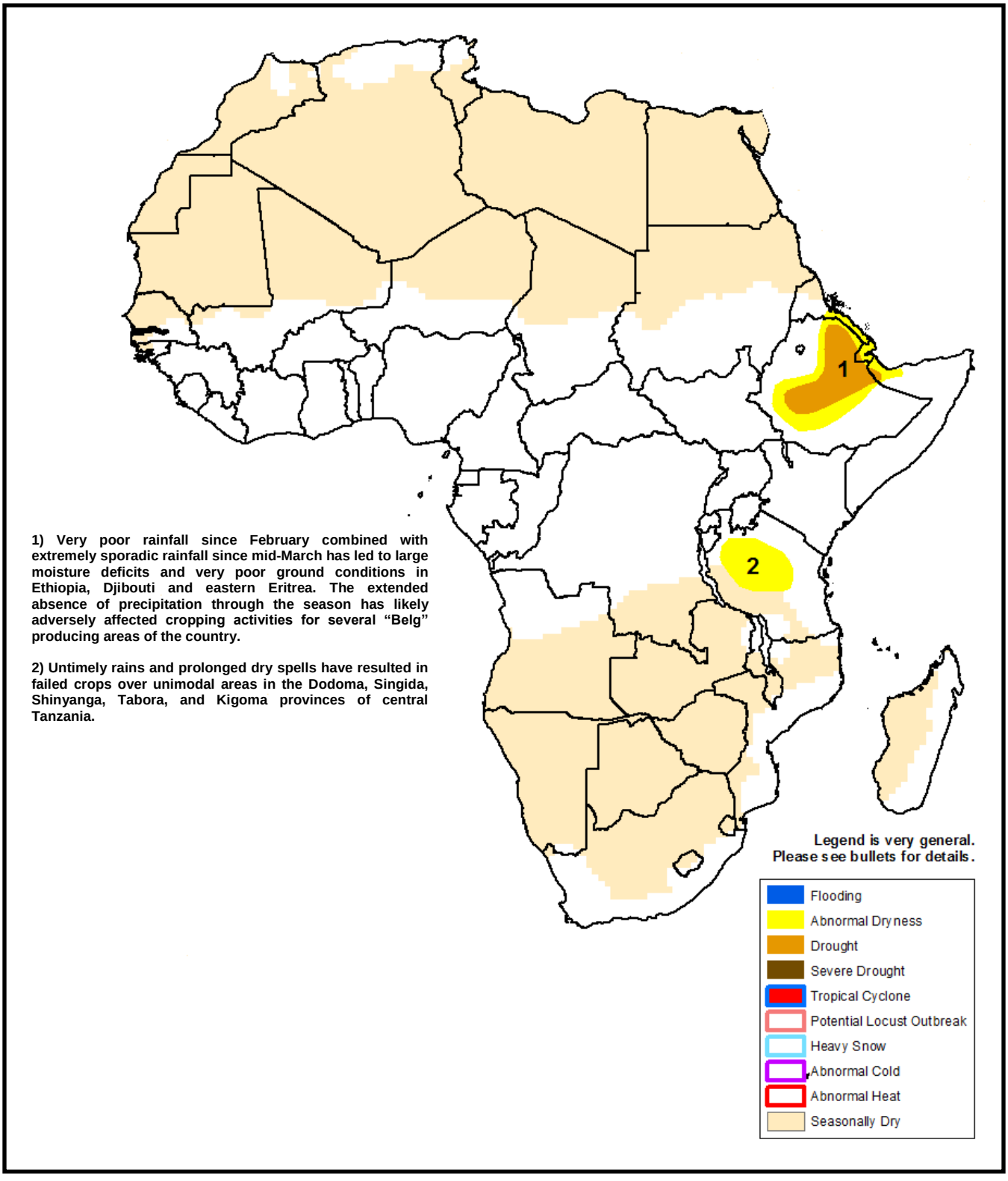
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
May 28 – June 04, 2015

- **Beneficial rainfall in the driest regions of Ethiopia and Djibouti; little rainfall for eastern areas of the Horn of Africa.**
- **Moisture surpluses emerge in far western portions of the Western Africa region, while deficits remain to the east.**



1) Very poor rainfall since February combined with extremely sporadic rainfall since mid-March has led to large moisture deficits and very poor ground conditions in Ethiopia, Djibouti and eastern Eritrea. The extended absence of precipitation through the season has likely adversely affected cropping activities for several "Belg" producing areas of the country.

2) Untimely rains and prolonged dry spells have resulted in failed crops over unimodal areas in the Dodoma, Singida, Shinyanga, Tabora, and Kigoma provinces of central Tanzania.

Substantial rain fell in some of the driest areas of North Central Ethiopia

A generally dry pattern persisted for a second consecutive week over large areas of the East Africa Region, with the focus of rainfall shifting west. Djibouti, as well as the Afar and northern Somali provinces of Ethiopia, which have been suffering from long-term dryness, received much needed rains at the end of the period. Greater than 100mm of rain fell in the northwest tip of Somalia (**Figure 1**). southwestern Kenya, local areas of western Ethiopia, along with South Sudan observed above-average rainfall. Local areas near Lake Victoria in Southwest Kenya observed more than 100mm of rain in the last 7 days. A wide-spread portion of South Sudan, stretching into the DRC, observed precipitation amounts greater than 50mm. Areas farther east received near or below-average rainfall.

Over the 90-day time scale, serious rainfall deficits remain evident across the center of Ethiopia. Provinces including, Afar, Somali, Oromia, and SNNPR, all have areas which indicate precipitation deficits of at least 100mm since February 24th (**Figure 2**). In these regions sporadic precipitation will not be enough to overcome moisture deficits. Conditions on the ground continue to struggle. Moisture surpluses continue to be the rule throughout southern Somalia and southern Kenya.

For the upcoming outlook period, precipitation models indicate a pattern likely to result in near or above-normal rainfall for the entire region. Northern Somalia and central and northern portions of Ethiopia specifically, are likely to receive above-average rainfall. Some of the driest areas of Ethiopia and Djibouti may continue to get beneficial rainfall in the upcoming period. Only an extended period of above-normal rainfall moving forward will be able to make significant inroads on the large deficits in these areas.

Satellite Estimated Weekly Rainfall (mm)
Valid: May 19 – May 25, 2015

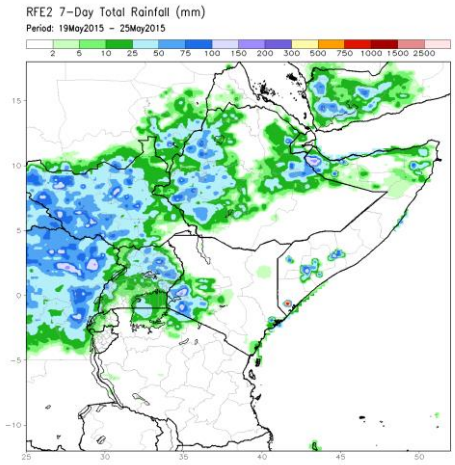


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite Estimates 90-Day Percent of Normal Rainfall
Valid: February 25 – May 25, 2015

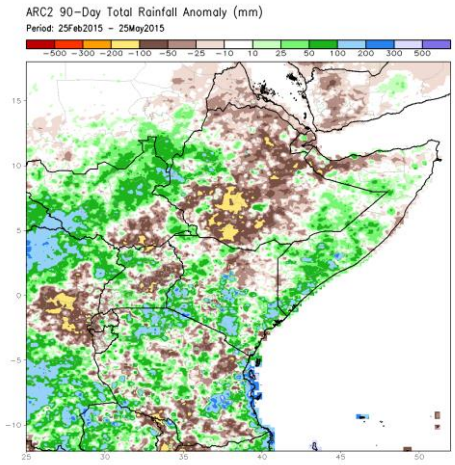


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Well-distributed rains result in rainfall surpluses in western portions of the region but fail to decrease deficits elsewhere.

Well-distributed rains fell across the West Africa region during the past 7 days. Western areas of the region, including Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia, and Cote D'Ivoire, received above-average rainfall (**Figure 3**). Central portions of Nigeria, which have been persistently dry, received significant rainfall. Rainfall has not reached as far north as climatology in parts of southern Chad, Sudan, and northern CAR. With the rains in far western Africa this past 7 days, longer-term rainfall surpluses have begun to appear. Widespread 50mm rainfall surpluses are observed in Liberia and Sierra Leone since April 25. Many areas, most notably northern Nigeria, as well as parts of Ghana, Benin, Togo, and Burkina Faso retain substantial moisture deficits. These areas bear watching for cropping concerns if dryness persists in the next couple of outlook periods.

According to precipitation models, the upcoming outlook period is likely to bring well-distributed rains. Northern areas should receive near to above-normal amounts while coastal regions are likely to receive suppressed amounts of rainfall.

Satellite Estimated 7-day Rainfall Anomalies (mm)
Valid: May 19 – May 25, 2015

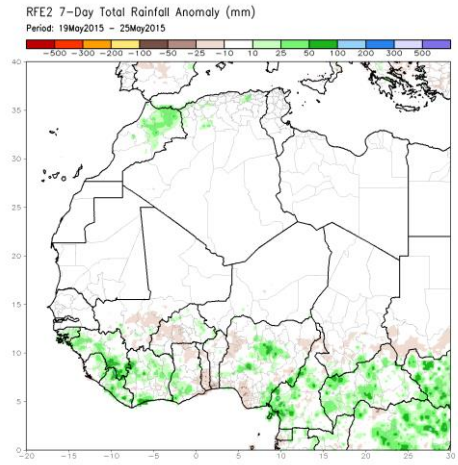


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-683-3424.